

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 14 and 16 to 21, the independent claims being Claims 1 and 11. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled previously. Claims 1 to 4, 6, 8 to 13 and 16 to 18 have been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated January 29, 2004, Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 14 and 16 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,282,362 (Murphy). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1 to 4, 6, 8 to 13 and 16 to 18 have been amended herein even more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel image pickup apparatus and method. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an image pickup apparatus including an image sensor, a storage unit which stores predetermined data, a display unit which displays the predetermined data stored in the storage unit, and a designation unit which a user operates to designate an arbitrary point on the predetermined data displayed on the display unit. A control unit is communicatively coupled to the storage unit and the designation unit, wherein the control unit controls the start of an image taking operation to take an image in response to designation of the

arbitrary point by said designation unit, and the generation of link information linking the image taken in the image-taking operation to the arbitrary point designated by the designation unit.

In another aspect, independent Claim 11 recites parallel features with respect to a method of controlling an image pickup apparatus.

In each aspect, predetermined data is stored in a storage unit, a user designates an arbitrary point in the predetermined data using a designation unit, and a control unit/step controls the start of a photo-taking operation when the user/designation unit designates the arbitrary point, and the generation of link information for linking the arbitrary point designated by the user and the image data from the photo-taking operation.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Murphy '362 patent relates to an image recording and display system including first designation means in a recording mode and second designation means in a playback mode. The Murphy '362 patent is understood to disclose a geographical position/image capturing system that stores object images and position coordinates as digital data. The system incorporates a geo-addressed map data base and geo-positioning device for relating the position of the system at the time the image is captured to the captured digital image data and the geo-addressed map. A point-of-interest feature data base is linked to the image data and the position data, by hyper-media links. Digital multi-

media entities such as graphics, video clips, audio streams and the like can be digitally stored and retrieved based on hyper-media links coupling the entities to the object images, the map position and feature data base. A playback unit incorporating an image viewer communicates with the stored digital image data, the multi-media entities, the map data base, and the feature data base and allows modified images of selected portions of the images and other data to be viewed by a user. The capture functions and playback functions may be combined in a compact, hand-held, portable unit for consumer or industrial field use. The images, position data and multi-media entities may be stored as a single, compressed, linked digital data file. The data file is provided with hyper-media connections between the various entities, which connections are actuated by clicking on icons displayed on the viewer, or by actuating buttons or switches provided on the system console. An angular orientation determining device for providing angular orientation data may also be incorporated such that the system angular orientation at the time of image capture may be captured and stored for subsequent retrieval and display.

However, Applicant submits that the Murphy '362 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that, in the Murphy '362 patent system, a user is required to actually move to a designated point on the predetermined data (map) in order to designate an arbitrary point on the predetermined data (map). The Murphy '362 patent is not understood to disclose or suggest the feature of a designation unit which designates an arbitrary point on the predetermined data (map), as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

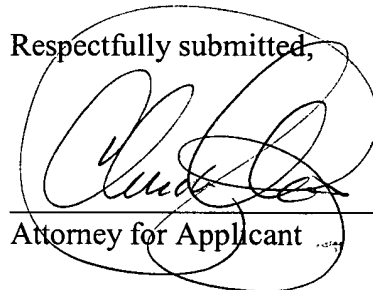
For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2 to 6, 8 to 10, 12 to 14 and 16 to 21 depend from Claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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